

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Department of Agriculture

www.ag.state.co.us

700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215-8000
(303) 239-4100
(303) 239-4125 FAX



Bill Owens, Governor
Don Ament, Commissioner
Sheldon R. Jones, Deputy Commissioner

January 30, 2006

The Honorable Mark Udall
United States House of Representatives
240 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Fax: 202.226.7840

Dear Congressman:

On behalf of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, I am writing to express our concerns regarding HR 4167, "The National Uniformity for Foods Act of 2005," which will appear before the House for action in the next few weeks.

This bill would preempt state feed safety agriculture defense programs from performing certain functions that protect citizens. Under this bill, a state would no longer be able to formulate laws and rules concerning the labeling of foods, animal feeds, feed additives and new animal drugs. Preempting state regulatory agencies from having autonomy to address food and animal feed safety concerns compromises public and animal health. Each state must have the latitude to act quickly to enact laws and rules that address local or statewide health concerns.

In addition, the waiver process required by HR 4167 would impose substantial financial burden on the state and federal governments. A state required to seek a waiver from the Federal Food and Drug Administration would incur significant legal and expert witness expenses, which could be better used in conducting food and animal feed safety inspections.

Consumers benefit from strong food safety laws at the federal and state levels. Elimination of the authority of each state to set policy and take appropriate action would reduce consumer protection. Therefore, I urge you to oppose HR 4167.

Your consideration of our concerns is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Don Ament
Commissioner
Colorado Department of Agriculture